

dle wing-coverts and upper tail-coverts paler, more vinaceous cinnamon; rest of upper parts, including top of head, rather light fulvous-grayish, the pileum narrowly but very distinctly, the back, scapulars, and rump very broadly and sharply, streaked with brownish black; nape more inclining to vinaceous, and obsoletely streaked. Lower parts pale buffy yellow, relieved by a large and distinct jugular patch of black, slightly broken by narrow buffy tips to the feathers. On the fore part and sides of the crown the black streaks show a tendency to coalescence, thus strongly indicating the solid black area of the adult male; the black on lores and cheeks is also strongly indicated. Wing, 3.65; tail, 2.40; culmen, .45; tarsus, .80.

Adult ♀, in winter (Albany, Oregon, Jan. 22, 1881; Cab. H. W. Henshaw). Above more decidedly brownish, with the streaks more suffused; lesser wing-coverts much duller cinnamon. Lower parts (posterior to the black jugular patch) with only the breast yellow, this clouded with rather distinct spots (some of deltoid shape) of dull grayish olive, or drab. Wing, 3.60; tail, 2.40.

In connection with my study of the Shore Larks I should not forget to mention the assistance I have received from friends. My thanks are due to the following gentlemen who have kindly placed their series of Shore Larks at my disposal: Mr. William Brewster; Mr. Geo. B. Sennett; L. Belding; W. Bryant; C. F. Batchelder; H. K. Coale; T. S. Roberts. My especial thanks are due to Mr. Ridgway, whose advice and substantial assistance I have had throughout the preparation of the paper.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH.

BY REV. J. H. LANGILLE.

OFF the south-west end of Nova Scotia, opposite Yarmouth and Shelburn Counties, is a large number of islands—one for every day in the year, they say. On leaving the harbor of the city of Yarmouth, off to the westward and well out at sea, are Green Island and Garneet Rock. Then comes the Tusket Islands, many in number, and of varied size, form and appearance; some being partly cultivated, some wholly wooded and the outermost almost as smooth as a lawn; these last are called the Bald Tuskets. Farthest out at sea, and very nearly on an extend-

ed line between the two counties mentioned, are the Mud Islands and Seal Islands. These are almost entirely covered with a low growth of evergreens—black spruce and balsam fir. Except the Robin, the Song Sparrow, the Snowbird, and a few Redstarts and Winter Wrens, almost the only small land-birds breeding here are the Black-poll Warbler and Bicknell's Thrush—the last two being very abundant.

This Thrush (the Black-poll I have described) was wholly new to me. My attention was first arrested by its call or alarm note, which sounded like *cree-e-e-eeep*, or *quee-a*, or *cree-e-e-ee*, on a rather fine, high key. It had some resemblance to the call of Wilson's Thrush, but was unmistakably different; and as Mr. Brewster has noted (Bull. N. O. Club, Vol. VIII, p. 12), is very particularly different from the sharp liquid *pip* or *peenk* of the typical Olive-back. The song, *Tsiderea*, *tsiderea*, *tsidirea*, sometimes *tsidirea*, *rea*, *tsiderea*, or some other modulation of the same theme, is similar in tone to that of Wilson's Thrush, but more slender and wirey, and therefore not nearly so musical and grand. In the solitude of its evergreen islands, however, this bird is by no means an inferior songster, the sibilant tones of its voice being finely relieved by certain more prolonged and liquid vibrations. A careful examination satisfied me that the bird was Bicknell's Thrush, lately identified in the Catskill and in the White Mountains, and named in honor of its discoverer. It was so abundant, and not particularly shy for a Thrush, that I had the most ample opportunity for the study of its habits; and several specimens were secured and retained. Next to its lesser size, in structural peculiarity, is its slender, depressed, and finely curved bill, compared with which that of the typical Olive-back seems thick and clumsy. While singing, which occurred throughout the day, but more especially in the evening twilight and early morning, the bird delighted to perch in the top of the evergreens, often on the very tip, where its bright, brown figure, with elevated head, was quite conspicuous. On the ground and in taking its food, its habits were precisely like those of other Thrushes.

To find the nest of this species was my great desideratum; and though the bird was so numerous, it was by no means an easy task. Many an hour did I thread my way through almost impenetrable evergreen thickets before I could secure the much

coveted prize. At last my search was rewarded by nests in considerable numbers, and all as nearly alike in location, structure, and materials, as it is possible for nests to be.

Placed a few feet from the ground, and against the trunk of an evergreen tree, it was composed externally of various kinds of mosses, including a few fine sticks, weed-stems and rootlets, and was lined with fine grasses well bleached; so that, outside, the nest was as green as a bunch of fresh moss, and the inside was light brown. The eggs, .87 X .63 of an inch, are light bluish-green, speckled with brown.

About the Mud and Seal Islands dense fogs prevail almost continually throughout the summer. This excessive moisture, so productive of mosses, causes the moss in the walls of the Thrushes' nests to grow; hence the nests of previous years, well protected from the weather by dense evergreens, become elegant moss-baskets finely ornamented within and without with living cryptogams. I saw a number such, which looked as if they had grown *in situ* on the trees.

Some 7 inches or a little less in length, Bicknell's Thrush, as above found, is uniform deep olive-brown above; the sides of the white under parts being ashy-gray, and the sides of the neck and the upper part of the breast but slightly tinged with buff; while the neck and breast-spots are not so large as in the typical *swainsoni*.

To my eye the bird does not appear so large as the other Thrushes, and the bill is unmistakably differentiated, both by its slenderness and by its delicately carved outline.

BIRDS OF THE LOWER URUGUAY.

BY WALTER B. BARROWS.

(Continued from p. 113.)

141. **Phalacrocorax brasilianus** (Gm.). CUERVO DEL AGUA (WATER CROW).—An abundant resident at Concepcion on all streams, large and small. Usually met with in pairs or small